

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK, ND

November 21, 2008  
1:00pm

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jenson. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence for POW/MIAs and those serving overseas.

Roll Call:

Present:

John Adolf	Jeff Hall	Orletta Kilen
Carl Bloomquist	John Hanson	Dean Overby
Lee Finstad	Ken Hasby	Wayne Paulson
Mike Fisher	Dave Hilleren	Lyle Schuchard
Jerry Goll	Rudy Jenson	Dave Vandergon

Guests:

June Veit, Senator Conrad's Office  
Jerry Samuelson, President ND CVSO Association  
Mark Johnson, Executive Director, ND Association of Counties  
Gerald Balzer  
Bob Hanson  
Jerry Meske

***Motion by Dean Overby to approve August 15 & 16, 2008 minutes, second by Jerry Goll. Motion passed.***

**Speakers:**

Rob McDivitt, FACHE, Medical Center Director, VA

- ▶ In FY 08, the VA served 28,000+ veterans, a record year in serving veterans
  
- ▶ No inpatient psychiatry during FY 08, the new unit opened in October.
- ▶ 5 OIF/OEF social workers throughout the State
- ▶ Grand Forks Community Based Outpatient Clinic should be opening early next spring and a CBOC is planned for Devils Lake next year.
- ▶ Renovated dental service and radiology.
- ▶ Still in the process of recruiting a Chief of Staff.

**MG David Sprynczynatyk, Adjutant General, NDARNG**

- ▶ Introduced Major Davina French as the Guard's Legislative Liaison.
- ▶ Historic event for the National Guard was the pinning of the first four star Nat'l Guard General in Washington, DC
- ▶ Civil Support team sent to St. Paul for security during the Republic National Convention.
- ▶ Spoke on the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Bridge in Bismarck. The ceremony took place on Veterans Day and is dedicated to all veterans.
- ▶ Army National Guard picked up 82 new positions.
- ▶ Will try to expand bonus incentives and tuition assistance this legislative session.
- ▶ Military Service Center to open in early December. This will be a one-stop shop for getting information to service people.

Maren Daley, Director, Job Service North Dakota, Bismarck

- ▶ Second Annual Hire a Vet Fair was held in Bismarck and was very successful. Employers were impressed in the work quality of veterans attending the event.
- ▶ Incentive Award recipients were named.

Mike Mullen, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office introduced. He is taking over for Mary Kae Kelsch in assisting the Department and the Veterans Home with legal issues.

**Mark Johnson, Administrator, ND Veterans Home**

Thanked the National Guard for their work on the new Veterans Home. Bids for new Home came in over amount. Bid process opened again, prices are dropping on supplies and materials. 2009-2011 budget submitted to Governor's office.

**Kelly Schmidt, ND State Treasurer**

PWTF Report distributed and explained. Information given on how the Fund is invested and its performance from the start of the 03-05 biennium to present.

**Strategic Plan / Operational Plan Update** – Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner  
Plan update accepted by Committee.

**Department of Veterans Affairs Report** – Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner  
Overview of Department business (see Subcommittee minutes)

### **Subcommittee Meetings**

Committee recessed until Saturday at 8:30am.

Saturday, November 22, 2008  
8:30am

Committee reconvened.

#### **Roll Call:**

##### **Present:**

John Adolf	Jeff Hall	Dean Overby
Carl Bloomquist	John Hanson	Wayne Paulson
Lee Finstad	Ken Hasby	Lyle Schuchard
Mike Fisher	Dave Hilleren	Dave Vandergon
Jerry Goll	Rudy Jenson	

##### **Absent:**

Orletta Kilen

##### **Guests:**

Jerry Samuelson, President, ND CVSO Association  
Gerald Balzer

#### **Chairman's Report:**

Legislation pertaining to saving the 1990's addition to the Veterans Home is on hold.  
This may be taken up in the next legislation session.

Legislation pertaining to the President, ND CVSO Association, and the Executive Director, ND Association of Counties, becoming ex-offio members of the Administrative Committee. There is positive feedback on this matter.

Legislation on tax issue pertaining to military retirees will need a fiscal note attached.

#### **Subcommittee Reports:**

**DVA Subcommittee** – Dean Overby, Chair

Discussion on Commissioner's participation at conferences, conventions, etc.  
Recommendation from subcommittee that the Commissioner spend a minimum of a day to allow for follow-up with other participants. Six-month evaluation of Commissioner on record in the office

***Motion by Dean Overby to accept committee report, second by Dave Hilleren. Motion passed.***

**Budget – John Hanson, Chair**

Committee recommends a quarterly report on the department's budget be sent to the budget committee before each meeting for their review.

***Motion by John Hanson to accept committee report, second by Dean Overby. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Postwar Trust Fund Committee – Dave Hilleren, Chair**

Committee recommends tabling Veterans Home request so previous expenditures can be reviewed.

***Motion by Dave Hilleren to accept committee report, second by John Hanson. Motion passed.***

***Motion by Dave Hilleren that the Veterans Home request for Activity Fund monies be tabled until further information is received, second by Mike Fisher. Motion passed.***

**Appeals Committee – Wayne Paulson, Chair**

No appeals at this time. Appeal submitted in September was resolved by the Commissioner. Additional information submitted so approval was given to request.

***Motion by Wayne Paulson to accept subcommittee report, second by Ken Hasby. Motion passed***

**Legislative Committee – Lee Finstad, Chair**

Review of joint meeting of Legislative subcommittee and the ND Veterans Coordinating Council.

***Motion by Dean Overby to support legislation adding the President of the ND CVSO Association and the Executive Director of the ND Association of Counties as ex-officio members of the Administrative Committee, second by Jerry Goll. Motion passed.***

***Motion by Lyle Schuchard to support legislation on the Income Tax Reduction, second by Wayne Paulson. Motion passed.***

***Motion by Ken Hasby to support legislation adding a handicap sticker to the DAV License Plate, second by Dave Hilleren. Motion passed.***

***Motion by John Hanson to support legislation for US Highway 3 to be known as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway, second by Lyle Schuchard. Motion passed.***

***Motion by John Adolf to support legislation designating I-94 as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway, second by Dean Overby. Motion passed.***

***Motion by Dean Overby to support legislation changing the wording of a rule in the ND Century Code for games of chance, second by Lyle Schuchard. Motion to table legislation, seconded. Motion to table passed.***

***Motion by John Adolf to support legislation eliminating excise tax on charitable gaming, second by Dean Overby. Motion passed.***

***Motion by Dean Overby to support legislation on adding language on an applicant's appeal rights in veterans preference cases, second by Wayne Paulson. Motion passed.***

Subcommittee met and discussed the strategic plan. Committee commended the Commissioner and his staff on their activities in implementing the goals outlined in the strategic plan.

***Motion by Lee Finstad to accept subcommittee's report along with the joint meeting minutes, second by Carl Bloomquist . Motion passed unanimously.***

Remarks from Jerry Samuelson thanking the Committee for including the ND CVSO Association and the ND Association of Counties as ex-officio members. He is working with Mark Johnson on other issues regarding the county veterans service officers.

Remarks from Lyle Schuchard on books distributed at the Veterans Memorial Bridge Dedication. The books gave detailed information on the old bridge and the new bridge.

Chairman Jenson spoke on getting plaques for Gary Skarphol, Jerry Meske, and Wally Buckingham as departing committee members. Consensus of committee to go ahead with the project. Lyle Schuchard will order the plaques.

Meeting adjourned.

ACOVA Meeting  
November 21 & 22, 2008  
Page 6 of 6

Respectfully submitted

Lyle Schuchard  
Secretary